Protest by forest dwellers

2005. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the thousands of tribals and other forest dwellers who gathered in Hoshangabad district in Madhya Pradesh, to protest against their threatened displacement from the Satpura National Park, Bori Wildlife Sanctuary and Panchmarhi Wildlife Sanctuary;

(b) if so, whether Government have caused a probe into their grievances; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken to protect their legitimate forest rights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The State has informed that a rally was organized on 5th February, 2006 at Pipariya in the Hoshangabad district of Madhya Pradesh, in which people from Satpura National Park, Bori, Panchmarhi Sanctuaries and outside participated. This was reportedly against relocation, collection of minor forest produce from protected areas and the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(b) This Ministry has not received any report from the State regarding a probe in the matter.

(c) Provisions exist in the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 for safeguarding the rights of people residing in protected areas till final settlement of such areas under the said Act.

Role of soft drink bottling plants in groundwater pollution

2006. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Pollution Control Board has surveyed diverse soft drink bottling plants for their role in groundwater pollution or other types of pollution;

(b) if so, what were the findings of CPCB in 2005-06; and

(c) what steps does the CPCB take to prevent groundwater pollution through chemical seepages, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has surveyed 16 soft drink plants in the country for characterization of sludge generated from the Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs) of these units. The analysis of the sludge has revealed that in 8 plants, the Cadmium concentration was more than 50 mg/kg of sludge and in the rest it was ranging from 5 to 50 mg/kg. It was also observed that there was variation in the concentration of other heavy metals.

(b) The State Pollution Control Boards have been asked to monitor the sludge generated from effluent treatment plants to check the concentration of various parameters exceeding the limits notified under Schedule-2 of the Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 as amended, prior to the disposal of sludge.

Violation of Forest Act by MCL open cast mining

2007. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a large scale violation of Forest Act by Mahanadi Coalfields Limited open cast mining in the IB Valley areas of Orissa; and

(b) how many cases are being initiated against the MCL for the violation of Forest Act and creation of environmental hazards in the mining areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) had taken up mining and ancillary activities on forest land without obtaining approval of Government of India under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, in respect of Samaleswari, Lilari and Belapahar open cast mines. For these violations, the Ministry of Environment and Forests had imposed penal Compensatory Afforestation (CA), to be raised on degraded forest land, twice in extent to the forest land used in violation of FC Act. In case of Lilari mines, penal CA has been imposed to cover four times the forest land used in violation of FC